



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

ROBERT L. (ROBB) PITTS
PRESIDENT

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
SUITE 2900
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335
TELEPHONE
(404) 330-6035
FACSIMILE
(404) 656-7551

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01-C -0087

The Honorable Mable Able Thomas
Chair
Committee on Council
Atlanta City Council
Atlanta, GA 30335

Dear Mable:

I am hereby appointing Dr. Lorraine Walton to serve as a member of the Human Relations Commission as a Class A member. This appointment will begin upon Council confirmation.

I would urge the committee's confirmation of this appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robb".

Robb Pitts, President
Atlanta City Council

Trailblazer In Review

A Personal Tribute

Dr. Lorraine S. Walton, a native Georgian is married to Jesse I. Walton and is the mother of two adult children, Angela & J. Kipp. Angela is self-employed as an International Business and Management Consultant and J. Kipp is employed with the United States Postal Service. She was educated in the public schools of Georgia. She earned the bachelor's degree from Albany State College and the masters, specialist and doctorate degrees from Atlanta University (CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY).

Dr. Walton has served over thirty-nine years as a public educator in the Seminole, Gwinnett and Atlanta Public School Systems with thirty-two of those years in the Atlanta Public School System. She has served as a classroom teacher, attendance supervisor, department chairperson, program coordinator, assistant director, vice-president and acting president. The past twenty-six years have been spent in administration and supervision at Atlanta Area Technical School. Her teaching career began in her hometown of Donaldsonville, Georgia in Seminole county in 1956. Following her marriage, she moved with her husband to Lawrenceville, Georgia where she served as classroom teacher, elementary division leader, basketball coach, and talent and drama coach coordinator for seven years.

Dr. Walton joined the Atlanta Public School System's family in 1964 as an elementary classroom teacher. In 1967, she transferred to the C. L. Harper High School where she served as department chairperson until 1970. In 1970, she was promoted to a newly created position as Special Needs Coordinator for the Atlanta Area Technical School, the first such position in the State of Georgia. She designed and implemented the state's first major effort to make vocational training accessible to individuals with special needs. As a result of her work, she was recognized as Georgia's special needs expert. In her new role, she traveled throughout the state and to other major cities conducting special needs orientation and training for vocational teachers and administrators. She developed and taught the state's first mandated HB 671 course in the Atlanta Area. College credits were made available through Georgia State University for the 110 students enrolled in the class. Her course outline served as the state's model. Georgia continues to require the course for all certificated employees.

In 1975, *Dr. Walton* was assigned the responsibility for developing a special program designed to enhance training opportunities for hearing impaired and bilingual students. During the first year of operation, more than 40 hearing impaired students received post-secondary vocational technical training at Atlanta Tech. As many as 15 interpreters were hired to facilitate the training process. The bilingual population increased from 11 students in 1974-75 to 118 in 1975-76. Two certified bilingual specialists were hired to provide tutorial and counseling assistance for the students. She organized two National Special Needs conferences at Atlanta Area Tech. Among the keynote speakers were Governor Joe Frank Harris and the U. S. Department of Education's Assistant Secretary.

In 1983, *Dr. Walton* became the assistant director for student services. Under her leadership, a comprehensive recruitment and student retention program was organized. The dwindling enrollment of approximately 1500 students increased to approximately 1700 students by the fall of 1989. In 1989, she became vice president for student services. Also, she served as acting president during the illness of the former president. After a year long illness in 1991-92, she returned to Atlanta Tech continuing to serve as its acting president until the end of the year. For the past three years, she has devoted her time and energies to developing and implementing a comprehensive staff training and development program. The program is recognized as one of the state's staff training models.

Dr. Walton has enjoyed a distinguished career of community service in civic, political and social arenas. Her achievements and contributions have been well documented. She was cited by former Mayor Sam Massell for designing the general education and skill training programs for the City of Atlanta Bureau of Corrections under the leadership of Corrections Chief J. D. Hudson. She was a charter member and first chairperson of Friends of the Atlanta Public Library during former Mayor Maynard Jackson's administration. She served with former First Lady Rosalyn Carter with the Georgia Mental Health program during the administration of the Honorable Jimmy Carter, former Governor Joe Frank Harris as chairperson of the Small and Minority Business Commission, served on the Atlanta PIC Board during Mayor Maynard Jackson's last term in office. In addition, she has received numerous civic and social citations for outstanding service. The former president of Atlanta Area Tech presented Atlanta Area Tech's first Distinguished Service Award for an administrator to her in 1980.

Dr. Walton has received more than 300 plaques, trophies, certificates and letters of commendation over the past 26 years. The walls of her office are lined with recognition awards from Atlanta Mayors, Georgia Governors, United States Senators, Georgia State Senators, the NAACP, National Council of Negro Women, UNCF, National Black Women Political Leadership Caucus, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Kappa Alpha PSI Fraternity, VICA, United Way of Atlanta, Allen Temple A. M. E. Church where she has served as trustee, former Superintendents of Schools Dr. J. Jerome Harris and Dr. Alonzo Crim and the National Democratic Committee for Outstanding Service and the Atlanta's Image and Stylemaker Award in 1994.

Dr. Walton was selected for inclusion in Who's Is Who In Education In 1992, Who's Is Who Among American Women in 1993 and Who's Is Who In Leadership in 1995. Locally, Dr. Walton has received recognition for such accomplishments as Atlanta's Bronze Woman Of The Year For Community Service, The Style Maker and Image Award, the NAACP & UNCF Distinguished Service Award, and the Top Ladies of Distinction Service Award for the creation of its Trailblazer Award Program. Throughout ***Dr. Walton's*** distinguished career as a public educator, she has served as a role model for women, and other professionals. She nominated and mentored twelve women and other minorities for participation in Vocational Leadership training for teachers interested in a leadership position. Eleven of the mentees have since been promoted to leadership positions in Atlanta and elsewhere. Over the past twenty-three years, all of the Atlanta Tech employees promoted to leadership positions, except two, who have been promoted to leadership positions, were either being supervised by her at the time of their promotions or they were interviewed and recommended for promotion by her.

Dr. Walton has been a caring and giving professional all of her adult life. She credits her deceased parents, Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Hopson, for her success in life. At an early age, the Hopson children learned "that to those whom much is given, much is required". She has been an outstanding, loving and sharing trailblazer. Her response to praise for her accomplishments is that, "My children represent my greatest achievement and the love and support of a devoted husband, children, other family members and friends made it possible for me to be of service to mankind."